Tales of TORMENT

5.00

No. 1

50¢

SECRET SHADOW in the NIGHT

...PAGE 2

The Secret

ALL THE TIME HE HAD TO RUN AND HIDE AMONG THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT.

TEXT: Jaime Carrera

ART. Mauvais

©— Editorial Vilmar — Barcelona — The Illustrated

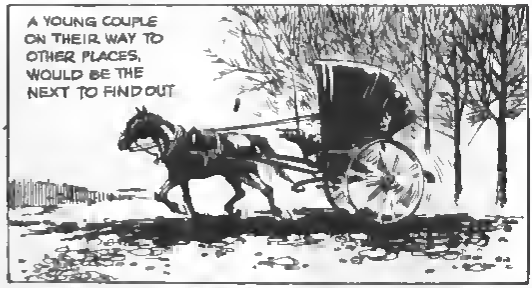
Printed for Gradown Pty. Limited 249 Pitt Street Sydney
by Eastern Suburbs Newspapers 77 Belmore Road Randwick N S W
Distributors. Gordon & Gotch A.Nzs Ltd Melbourne Gradown Pty Ltd. Sydney
RECOMMENDED PRICE

2340 NSW
EX:
02-6766 6076
BUY.

BUT IN DUE COURSE, NIGHT WOULD FALL AGAIN, AND SO ·

... THE HUNCHBACK WOULD AWAKE TO BE LORD AND MASTER OF THE VILLAGE.

BUT HE HAD THE SECRET. THE TERRIBLE SECRET THAT FORCED HIM TO HIDE FROM EVERYONE....


A YOUNG COUPLE ON THEIR WAY TO OTHER PLACES, WOULD BE THE NEXT TO FIND OUT

WHAT'S THAT VILLAGE?
I DON'T KNOW. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A VILLAGE HERE.

ANYWAY, IT'S ALL FOR THE BETTER. IT'S ALMOST DARK AND WE CANNOT SLEEP OUT IN THE OPEN.

FATE LED THEM TO DISCOVER THE HUNCHBACK'S TERRIBLE SECRET.

CAREFUL. HOLD ON.!
OOOOH!
CRASH!

ARE YOU HURT.?
NO... JUST TWISTED MY ANKLE A BIT.

THERE MUST BE SOMEONE HERE.

SLOWLY THEY APPROACHED THE SECRET.
BUT THIS IS GRAVEYARD.! LET'S GO.!
WAIT, DEAR. WE'LL FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP US.

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
DON'T WORRY, I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR THE SEXTON

BUT THE GIRL WOULD MEET THE FIRST LIVING PERSON.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
AAA
AAH!
MARCEL!
MARCEL!

HE'S COME OUT OF ONE OF THE TOMBS! I SAW HIM!
COME, COME. DON'T BE SILLY. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

I LIVE HERE. I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO FRIGHTEN YOU.
WE WANT TO FIND SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT. CAN YOU SHOW US THE WAY TO THE VILLAGE?

I WOULDN'T ADVICE YOU TO GO THERE. MY COMPANY WOULD SUIT YOU BETTER. AND YOU CAN STAY THE NIGHT.

NO.! NOT HERE! THAT MAN FRIGHTENS ME.!
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL GO TO THE VILLAGE. I DON'T FEEL VERY SAFE HERE MYSELF.

BUT THE HUNCHBACK'S REACTION WAS QUITE UNEXPECTED.
I TOLD YOU TO STAY HERE.!
HUH?.!

I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO REACH THE VILLAGE.

BUT THE HUNCHBACK WAS NO MATCH FOR THE HEALTHY YOUNG MAN
OUCH!

COME QUICKLY.
YOU'LL BE SORRY! YOU'LL BE SORRY.!

THEY REACHED THE FIRST HOUSES SOON AND EASILY.
HERE WE'LL BE SAFE.
SAFE, FRIENDS?
¡TOK TOK!
OPEN UP! OPEN UP!
DEATH ITSELF OPENED THE DOOR TO THEM.
WHAT DO YOU WISH?
AAAAAAH!
SLOWLY, LIKE AUTOMATONS, THE REVOLTING INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE CLOSED IN ON THEM
MY GOD!
OH!
THEY WERE ANXIOUS FOR THE YOUNG COUPLE'S LIFEBLOOD...
¡AAAAAAAAAAAH!

IT WAS THE AWFUL SECRET OF THAT VILLAGE WHERE DEATH DWELLED A SECRET WHICH THE HUNCHBACK WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO KEEP TO HIMSELF...
I WARNED THEM,' I DID.'
END

The CURSED CRYSTAL
STARK MYSTERY SURROUNDED THE SILENT HOUSE NO ONE EVER VISITED ··· UNTIL A SUDDEN INVITATION SET AN APPOINTMENT WITH DOOM! THE FIRST HINTS OF TERROR WERE REFLECTED HAZILY AT FIRST IN THE CURSED CRYSTAL ··· UNTIL A MIDNIGHT DEATH BROUGHT FORTH THE FIEND WHOSE PREY WAS HUMAN SOULS!
WONDER WHAT'S WITH THIS WEEK END INVITATION OF BRADFORD'S, BETTY··· ESPECIALLY SINCE HE ASKED US TO COME TONIGHT! HE'S PRACTICALLY A NEIGHBOR OF YOURS··· BUT I UNDERSTOOD HE STAYED PRETTY MUCH TO HIMSELF!
I USED TO MEET BRADFORD IN TOWN NOW AND THEN, STEVE ··· UP TO A YEAR AGO! SINCE THEN, HE'S BECOME A RECLUSE ··· I DON'T THINK ANYONE HAS SEEN HIM!

STRANGE, ISN'T IT? HERE'S BRADFORD LIVING LIKE A HERMIT FOR A YEAR -- AND SUDDENLY--- WE'RE HIS FIRST GUESTS!
GUESS THERE MUST HAVE BEEN ANOTHER INVITATION, STEVE! SEE THAT GIRL OVER THERE--- WEARING THE STRANGE COSTUME?

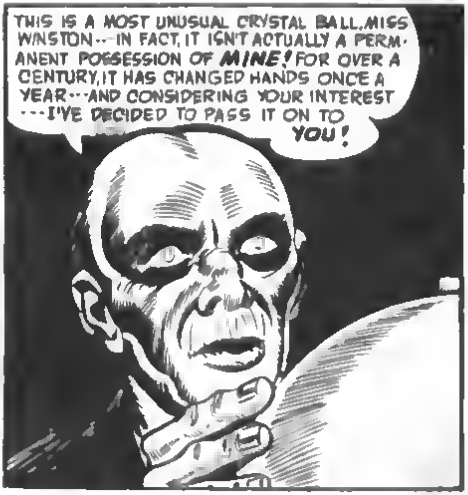
THEN---LIKE THE SHIFTING OF A MIST BEFORE AN UNSEEN BREEZE---
WHAT GIRL, BETTY? I DON'T SEE A SOUL!
GOOD HEAVENS --HER FIGURE'S FADING! SHE'S A GHOST!

I WISH YOU WOULDN'T LOOK SO SMUG, STEVE! I SAW THAT PHANTOM PLAINLY--- AND SHE WAS DRESSED LIKE A GYPSY!
OKAY--- I DON'T DOUBT YOU SAW SOMETHING! BUT BRADFORD WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST WEEK-END HOST WHO TRIED TO SCARE HIS GUESTS--- STRICTLY FOR LAUGHS!

QUITE A LOAD OF MAIL, HUH? FOR A RECLUSE --BRADFORD CERTAINLY HAS A HEAVY CORRESPONDENCE!
AND NO WONDER! SOME OF THESE LETTERS WERE POST-MARKED NEARLY A YEAR AGO--- THEY JUST HAVEN'T BEEN PICKED UP SINCE THEN!

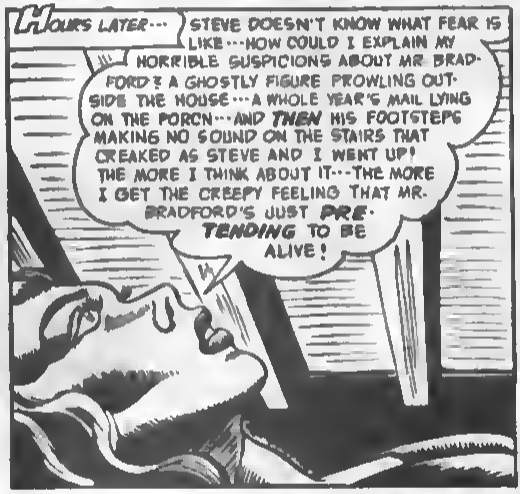
UNEXPECTEDLY---
CRRREAK!
OH!
AH --MY GUESTS! DON'T BOTHER WITH THOSE LETTERS--- I'VE COMPLETELY LOST INTEREST IN ORDINARY THINGS!

THIS MAY SEEM AN ODD HOUR FOR AN INVITATION, BUT I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND MY REASON--- SOON!
GOODNESS--- WHAT AN IMMENSE CRYSTAL BALL! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FORTUNE TELLING MR. BRADFORD?


THIS IS A MOST UNUSUAL CRYSTAL BALL, MISS WINSTON--- IN FACT, IT ISN'T ACTUALLY A PERMANENT POSSESSION OF MINE! FOR OVER A CENTURY, IT HAS CHANGED HANDS ONCE A YEAR--- AND CONSIDERING YOUR INTEREST ---I'VE DECIDED TO PASS IT ON TO YOU!

I'M NOT SURE I WANT IT, MR. BRADFORD! I'VE NEVER SEEN A CRYSTAL BALL BEFORE···BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ALMOST UNCANNY ABOUT THIS ONE!
PERHAPS YOU WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE! BUT IT IS GROWING LATE···LET ME SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOMS!

MAX ··MOUNTING SLOWLY INTO THE DEEPENING GLOOM···
SOMETHING WRONG, HONEY? YOU SEEM MOODY· WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
NOTHING, STEVE! I'M JUST··· LISTENING!
CREAK!
CREAK

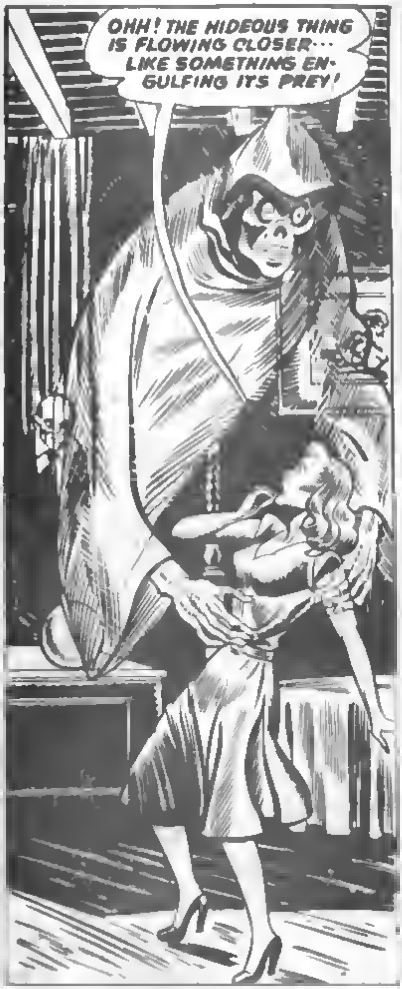

HOURS LATER···
STEVE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT FEAR IS LIKE···HOW COULD I EXPLAIN MY HORRIBLE SUSPICIONS ABOUT MR. BRADFORD? A GHOSTLY FIGURE PROWLING OUTSIDE THE HOUSE···A WHOLE YEAR'S MAIL LYING ON THE PORCH···AND THEN HIS FOOTSTEPS MAKING NO SOUND ON THE STAIRS THAT CREAKED AS STEVE AND I WENT UP! THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT···THE MORE I GET THE CREEPY FEELING THAT MR. BRADFORD'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE ALIVE!

SUDDENLY···
THE DOOR'S STARTING TO OPEN! I DIDN'T HEAR A SOUND IN THE CORRIDOR···BUT IT MUST BE SOMEONE!

I SENSED YOU WOULD NOT BE ASLEEP, MISS WINSTON ···AND REMEMBERING MY PROMISE··· I DECIDED TO BRING THIS!
BUT I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT IT! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT CRYSTAL BALL THAT SCARES ME··· AND I DON'T FEEL TOO SURE ABOUT YOU, EITHER!

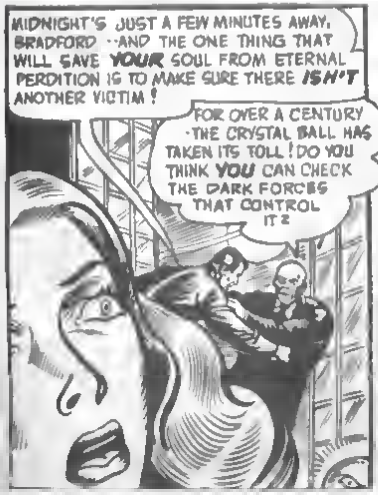
FEAR IS FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE, MISS WINSTON··· NOT SOMEONE LIKE YOU···SOMEONE CHOSEN! COME CLOSER···TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE IN THE CRYSTAL BALL!
IT'S YOUR FACE! BUT HOW COULD IT HAPPEN ···IS IT A TRICK?

NO···NOT A TRICK! THE CRYSTAL BALL HAS CLAIMED A PART OF ME··· AND IT HAPPENED ···LIKE THIS!
GOOD HEAVENS ···THERE'S A GLISTENING PHANTOM COMING OUT!


OHH! THE HIDEOUS THING IS FLOWING CLOSER··· LIKE SOMETHING ENGULFING ITS PREY!

BETTY! GREAT GUNS ··· WHERE'D THAT GHOST COME FROM?
IT SWIRLED OUT OF THE CRYSTAL ··· AND NOW IT'S GOING BACK!

IT WAS BRADFORD WHO SUMMONED THE PHANTOM, STEVE! HE HAS GOOD REASON TO KNOW ABOUT THE CRYSTAL BALL··· BECAUSE HE ISN'T HUMAN!
HOW CAN I BE··· WHEN THE CRYSTAL BALL CLAIMED MY SPIRIT? BUT MY BODY WILL LIVE FOREVER··· PROVIDED I CAUSE ANOTHER VICTIM TO BE TRAPPED BEFORE MIDNIGHT!
LET THE EVIL POWER IN THE CURSED CRYSTAL BECOME A STARING EYE··· HOLDING THEM ENTRANCED UNTIL THE PHANTOM CAN CAPTURE THEIR SOULS!


MIDNIGHT'S JUST A FEW MINUTES AWAY, BRADFORD ··AND THE ONE THING THAT WILL SAVE YOUR SOUL FROM ETERNAL PERDITION IS TO MAKE SURE THERE ISN'T ANOTHER VICTIM!
FOR OVER A CENTURY ··THE CRYSTAL BALL HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CHECK THE DARK FORCES THAT CONTROL IT?

THERE'S ONE FORCE YOU HAVEN'T COUNTED ON··· DEATH!
AAAGH!
POW!

SECONDS LATER, AT THE FIRST HOLLOW STROKES OF MIDNIGHT··
LOOK··· IT'S BRADFORD'S GHOST!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF IT NOW, HONEY! THE CRYSTAL BALL IS RELEASING HIS SPIRIT ··AND IT PROVES THAT FINALLY··· HE'S REALLY DEAD!
BONG! BONG!

GOOD HEAVENS, STEVE··· BRADFORD'S BODY IS A GAUNT AND HIDEOUS OBJECT!

YEP···AND IT EXPLAINS WHY BRADFORD WAS CONSIDERED A RECLUSE! HE'S BEEN A WALKING CORPSE WAITING IN SECLUSION UNTIL TONIGHT, WHEN HE TRIED TO LURE YOU TO THE CURSED CRYSTAL··· EXACTLY A YEAR AFTER IT VICTIMIZED HIM!

STEVE, I CAN'T GUESS WHAT DIABOLICAL POWER CONTROLS THIS THING··· BUT BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER··· LET'S SMASH IT!

I'LL TRY, HONEY··· BUT I'M CONVINCED IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD! THE CRYSTAL HAS BEEN ENGULFING VICTIMS IN A CHAIN OF HORROR FOR YEARS···AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO END THE CURSE! WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THE EVIL SOURCE ··· THE SPIRIT THAT BEGAN THIS HIDEOUS CYCLE!

THE PHANTOM OF THE CRYSTAL WAS ONCE A LIVING HUMAN· SOMEONE WHOSE SPIRIT HAS SURVIVED ONLY BECAUSE ONCE A YEAR IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO TRAP AN UNSUSPECTING SACRIFICE LIKE BRADFORD! BUT HOW CAN WE TRACE THE PHANTOM BACK TO ITS HUMAN ORIGIN···WHEN IT DOESN'T HAVE FEATURES?

WAIT···WHAT ABOUT THE GYPSY GIRL I SAW OUTSIDE? GYPSIES HAVE USED CRYSTAL BALLS FOR CENTURIES! SUPPOSE IT'S HER SPIRIT THAT LURKS IN THE CRYSTAL···THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY SHE TOOK HUMAN FORM TONIGHT ···WATCHING TO SEE IF BRADFORD OBTAINED A NEW VICTIM!

SEE···IT'S JUST WHAT I FIGURED! THAT GYPSY GIRL COULD BE THE PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF THE PHANTOM··· BUT THE CRYSTAL BALL CAN'T BE DESTROYED AS LONG AS THE EVIL SPIRIT REMAINS INSIDE!

BLAM!

IT'S HORRIBLE, STEVE! BRADFORD DIDN'T MANAGE TO TRAP US, BUT AS LONG AS THAT THING HARBORS A LIVING FIEND WAITING TO CLAIM A NEW VICTIM··· WHAT'LL WE DO?

MIGHT AS WELL GO TO YOUR ROOM AND GET SOME REST, BETTY···YOU'LL BE SAFE AS LONG AS THE CRYSTAL BALL IS HERE! MEANWHILE···I'LL TRY TO WORK OUT THE ANSWER!

THE NIGHT CREEPS ON···AND WITH THE CRYSTAL BALL GLEAMING FROM THE SHADOWS···

I DIDN'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN BETTY···BUT IT'S OBVIOUS WHAT'LL HAPPEN NOW THAT BRADFORD'S SPIRIT HAS BEEN RELEASED! ANOTHER LIVING CORPSE WILL HAVE TO TAKE HIS PLACE ···SO IT'S A SAFE BET THAT THE PHANTOM WILL APPEAR IN HUMAN FORM!

MINUTES LATER···AS A SILVERY TINKLE RISES OUT OF NOWHERE···

MY GOSH···THAT THING GLIDED THROUGH A SECOND-STORY WINDOW!

WITH THE SPARKLE OF GYPSY SILVER MATCHED BY EYES AGLINT WITH AN EERIE FASCINATION···

I AM GLAD TO FIND YOU AWAITING ME ··ALONE!

I NEEDN'T ASK WHAT YOU ARE, OR WHY YOU'RE HERE··· BECAUSE THE CRYSTAL BALL IS GLOWING BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER AS YOU APPROACH IT!

IS THAT TO BE MARVELED AT··· WHEN IT HARBORS MY VERY SOUL? OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, I WAS A CREATURE THAT KEPT MY FELLOW-GYPSIES IN A STATE OF TERROR···A WITCH! WHEN I DIED, THEY PLACED THIS CRYSTAL BALL IN MY COFFIN···KNOWING IT WOULD KEEP MY EVIL SPIRIT TRAPPED FOREVER!

AND YET IT WASN'T A TRAP! YOUR PHANTOM CAN RISE FROM THE CRYSTAL WHENEVER IT SENSES PREY···AND YOUR LIVING CORPSE IS ABLE TO ROAM AT WILL!

FOR THAT I CAN THANK ONE OF OUR GYPSIES···WHO WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO LOVE ME! WHEN I DIED HE WAS CRAZED BY GRIEF ···HE REFUSED TO BELIEVE I WAS A WITCH···AND OPENED MY GRAVE HOPING TO PROVE MY SPIRIT HAD NOT BEEN IMPRISONED IN THE CRYSTAL!

THE MOMENT MY GRAVE WAS UNCOVERED···THE COUNTER-CURSE WAS BROKEN! MY LIVING CORPSE GAINED NEW LIFE···AND THE CRYSTAL BALL BECAME MY HAVEN···THE ONLY HIDING PLACE OF AN EVIL SOUL THAT SUSTAINED ITSELF WITH A NEW VICTIM EVERY YEAR!

SO THE CRYSTAL'S A REFUGE, HUH? I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHY THE INFERNAL THING CAN'T BE SHATTERED!

FOR ANYTHING TANT, STEVE GAZES AT THE BEWITCHING FACE THAT MASKS UNBOUNDED EVIL···AND SUDDENLY ···A PLAN TAKES SHAPE!

YOU'RE PRETTY TERRIFIC FOR A CREEP ···AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHY YOU'VE KEPT YOUR SPIRIT AND YOUR LIVING CORPSE SEPARATE! IF THEY EVER CAME TOGETHER, THE RESULT WOULD BE SO HIDEOUS THAT I'D SCREAM OUT OF HERE··AND YOU'D LOSE A VICTIM!

NONSENSE···YOU COULD NEVER ESCAPE! BUT WHAT NEED HAVE I FOR HORROR··· WHEN MY ALLUREMENTS WILL MAKE YOU SURRENDER YOURSELF WILLINGLY?

YOU'D BETTER GUESS AGAIN ···BECAUSE I'M A LONG WAY FROM SEEING ANYTHING SEDUCTIVE ABOUT A GHOUL!

FOOL···YOU HAVE CHOSEN BETWEEN FASCINATION AND HORROR! I WILL SUMMON MY SPIRIT FROM THE CRYSTAL BALL···AND WHEN IT CHANGES MY LIVING CORPSE INTO THE THING IT SHOULD BE AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS···YOU WILL BE TOO PARALYZED BY HORROR TO RESIST!

LET MY FIENDISH SPIRIT RISE FROM ITS HAVEN···AND MERGE WITH THE BODY THAT DIED A CENTURY AGO!

IN THE NEXT SECOND···
WATCH! YOU HAVE MOCKED ME FOR BEING A GHOUL AND I WILL REPAY IT WITH TERROR!
BLAZES! I THOUGHT I COULD TRICK HER, BUT IT'S MISSING FIRE··· SHE'S MAKING SURE I CAN'T REACH THE CRYSTAL BALL!

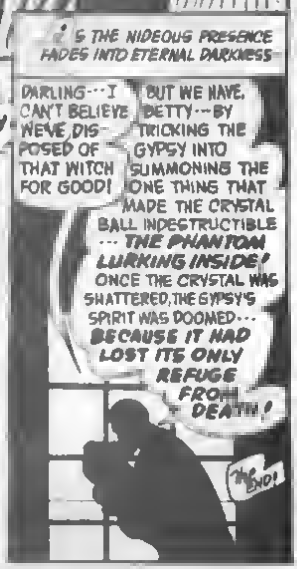
THEN ···IN A FLASH LADEN WITH THE DREAD OF AN UN HOLY GRAVE···
GREAT GUNS! IT'S JUST LIKE SINKING INTO QUICKSAND ···I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THOSE STARING EYES!

IN AN EMBRACE OF HORROR··· TIGHTENING LIKE THE COILS OF A GHOSTLY PYTHON···
MY MIND'S GETTING NUMB! ALL I CAN FEEL IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CURSED CRYSTAL··· READY TO ENSNARE MY SOUL!
LET ME SEE YOU SHRINK FROM THIS CARESS··· NOW THAT YOU ARE ON THE VERGE OF LIVING DEATH!

SUDDENLY···
STEVE! GOOD LORD··· WHAT IS THAT MONSTROUS THING?
THE CRYSTAL BALL! QUICK··· SMASH IT WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!

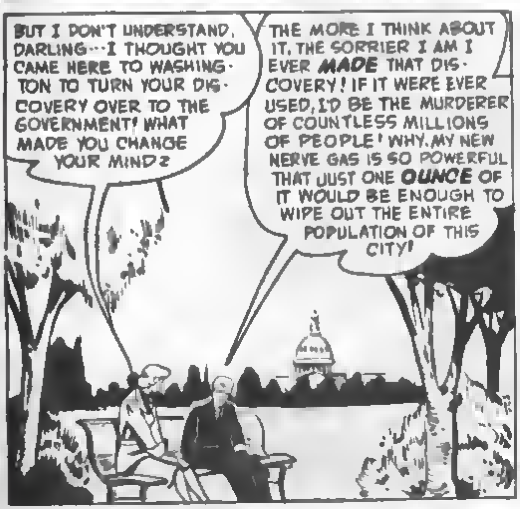
AS BETTY LUNGES···
SPIRIT··· HASTEN! RETURN TO YOUR REFUGE!

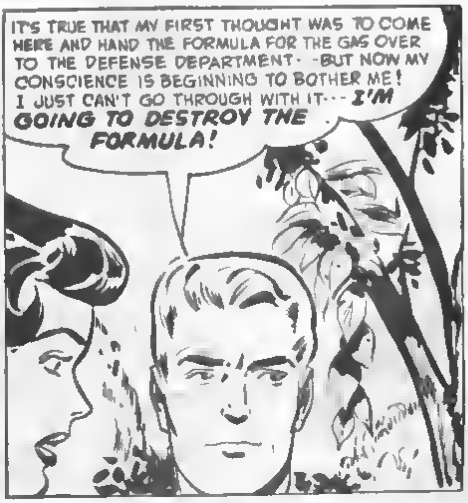
A SPLIT SECOND LATER···
AARGH
CRASH!

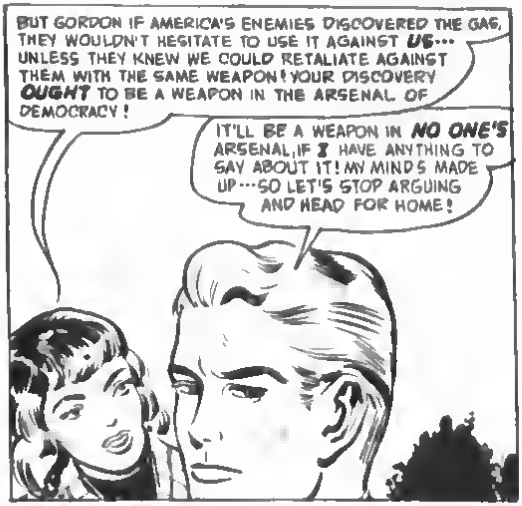

AS THE NIDEOUS PRESENCE FADES INTO ETERNAL DARKNESS···
DARLING··· I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'VE DISPOSED OF THAT WITCH FOR GOOD!
BUT WE HAVE, BETTY··· BY TRICKING THE GYPSY INTO SUMMONING THE ONE THING THAT MADE THE CRYSTAL BALL INDESTRUCTIBLE ··· THE PHANTOM LURKING INSIDE! ONCE THE CRYSTAL WAS SHATTERED, THE GYPSY'S SPIRIT WAS DOOMED··· BECAUSE IT HAD LOST ITS ONLY REFUGE FROM DEATH!
THE END!

The UNKNOWN GHOST

GET SET FOR ONE OF THE STRANGEST SUPERNATURAL STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ, READER! IT'S THE EERIE TALE OF AN **UNKNOWN** GHOST, WHOSE IDENTITY NEVER WAS AND NEVER WILL BE KNOWN ··· BUT A GHOST THAT WILL LIVE FOREVER IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF TRUE AMERICANS!



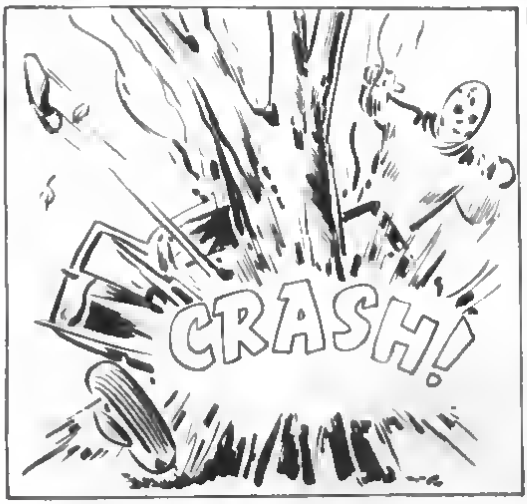


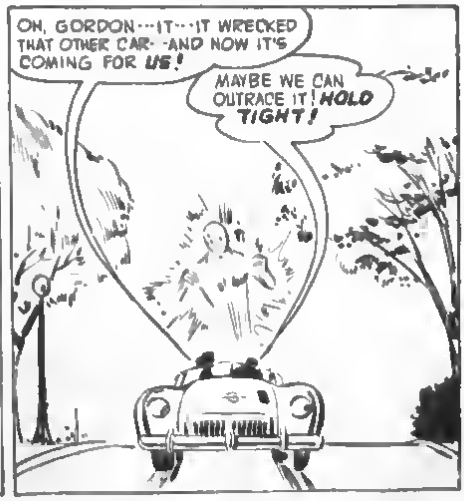

BUT GORDON IF AMERICA'S ENEMIES DISCOVERED THE GAS, THEY WOULDN'T HESITATE TO USE IT AGAINST US··· UNLESS THEY KNEW WE COULD RETALIATE AGAINST THEM WITH THE SAME WEAPON! YOUR DISCOVERY OUGHT TO BE A WEAPON IN THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY!
IT'LL BE A WEAPON IN NO ONE'S ARSENAL, IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT! MY MIND'S MADE UP···SO LET'S STOP ARGUING AND HEAD FOR HOME!

NEITHER WAS PREPARED FOR THE EERIE SIGHT WHICH GREETED THEM SHORTLY THEREAFTER···
GREAT SCOTT···WHAT'S THAT···THAT THING COMING TOWARD US?
IT'S COMING OUT OF A CEMETERY···AND IT LOOKS LIKE A GHOST!

WHATEVER IT IS, IT PASSED BY OUR CAR···IT'S DIVING DOWN ON THE ONE JUST BEHIND US!

THE AWFUL FACE WROUGHT···HAVOC!
NO NO!
DMITRI···YOU'RE LETTING GO OF THE WHEEL!


CRASH!


OH, GORDON···IT···IT WRECKED THAT OTHER CAR···AND NOW IT'S COMING FOR US!
MAYBE WE CAN OUTRACE IT! HOLD TIGHT!

IT···IT'S NO USE··· IT CAUGHT UP TO US!
IT'S BLOCKING MY VISION, JUST THE WAY IT DID WITH THAT OTHER DRIVER! I'D BETTER JAM ON THE BRAKES BEFORE WE CRASH!
SCRIEECH!

AS THE CAR GRINDS TO A SHUDDERING HALT···
IT'S HEADING FOR YOU, JANE ···AND MY BLOWS DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY EFFECT! QUICK···MAKE A RUN FOR IT!
POW!

BUT FLIGHT WAS USELESS···
IT···IT GOT HER!
OHHH!

THERE IT GOES···AND I··· I'M POWERLESS TO HELP!

I'VE GOT TO RESCUE JANE SOMEHOW···BUT TO DO THAT, I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHO THE GHOST IS AND WHAT IT'S REALLY AFTER! MAYBE I'LL GET A LEAD IF I FIND OUT WHY THE GHOST WRECKED THE CAR IN BACK OF ME—AND SPARED MY CAR!

THEY'RE DEAD, ALL RIGHT!···GREAT SCOTT··· THESE CARDS IN THEIR WALLETS SHOW THAT THEY WERE F.B.I. MEN! THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN SOME INFORMATION ABOUT MY DISCOVERY AND WERE TAILING ME! BUT IF THE GHOST KILLED THEM THEN IT'S AN EVIL GHOST···AND JANE IS IN DEADLY DANGER!

MINUTES LATER---
F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS? I'M REPORTING AN ACCIDENT AT THE NORTH END OF ARLINGTON CEMETERY---TWO OF YOUR AGENTS WERE KILLED IN AN AUTO CRASH THERE! NO, I'M SORRY I CAN'T GIVE MY NAME ·I CAN'T WAIT AROUND FOR THE INQUIRY·· I'VE GOT A MORE IMPORTANT JOB TO ATTEND TO!
OIL
FREE AIR

NOW IF I CAN ONLY FIND OUT WHERE THAT GHOST HOLY SMOKE, HE'S BACK AGAIN! HE'S DROPPING A NOTE INTO MY CAR!

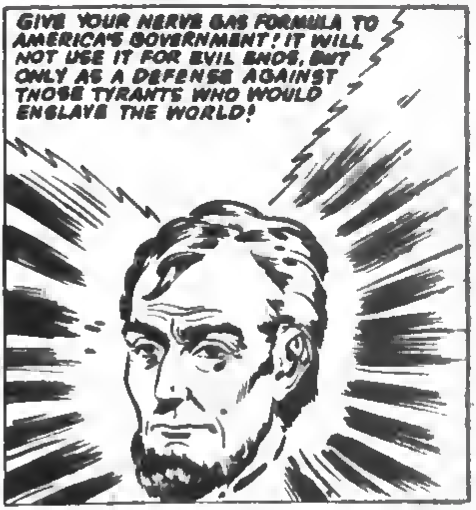
IT'S IN JANE'S HANDWRITING! ---"DARLING·· THE GHOST CAN'T SPEAK, BUT HE SCRATCHED A MESSAGE FOR ME IN THE GROUND! HE WROTE THAT I WOULD BE HELD CAPTIVE AS LONG AS YOU KEPT THE FORMULA OF YOUR DISCOVERY---AND THAT YOU SHOULD FOLLOW HIM IF YOU EVER WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN!"

OKAY, YOU GHOUL! YOU HOLD ALL THE TRUMPS ---SO LEAD ON AND I'LL FOLLOW!

LATER, AS THE MIDNIGHT MOON SHEDS A GOLDEN GLOW OVER THE SLEEPING CAPITAL---
I DON'T GET IT---WHY IN BLAZES DID THAT CREEP LEAD ME TO THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL?

STRANGE··HE RAISED HIS ARMS TOWARD LINCOLN'S STATUE··AND A MISTY CLOUD IS BEGINNING TO FORM! IT'S TAKING SHAPE AROUND LINCOLN'S HEAD··BUT WHAT WILL IT TURN INTO?

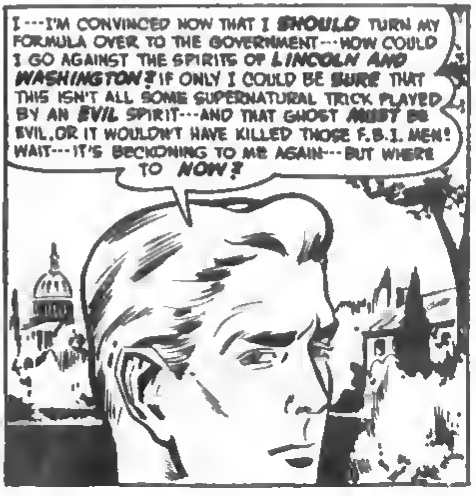
THEN---ASTOUNDINGLY---
IT---IT'S LINCOLN'S SPIRIT---AND HE SEEMS TO BE SPEAKING TO ME---!
NEED ME, MY FELLOW AMERICAN---YOURS IS A GOVERNMENT OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE---AND SUCH A GOVERNMENT CAN BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE DISCOVERY YOU HAVE MADE!


GIVE YOUR NERVE GAS FORMULA TO AMERICA'S GOVERNMENT! IT WILL NOT USE IT FOR EVIL ENDS, BUT ONLY AS A DEFENSE AGAINST THOSE TYRANTS WHO WOULD ENSLAVE THE WORLD!

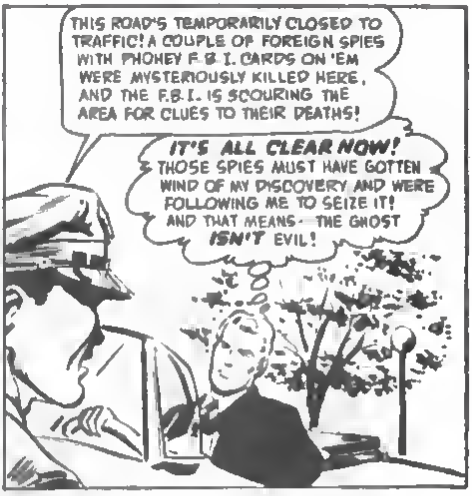
AS THE SPIRIT OF LINCOLN AND THE HOLLOW TONES FADE AWAY---
DID---DID IT ALL REALLY HAPPEN---OR AM I SUFFERING FROM HALLUCINATIONS? MAYBE I'LL FIND OUT IF I FOLLOW THE GHOST---IT'S BECKONING TO ME AGAIN!

SOON AFTERWARDS---
HE LED ME TO THE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL---AND NOW HE'S GOING THROUGH THE SAME MOTIONS, AS IF SUMMONING ANOTHER SPIRIT FROM THE UNKNOWN!

ONCE AGAIN A STRANGE VISION---FATEFUL WORDS---
HEAR ME, MY COUNTRYMAN---YOUR NATION NOW FACES AS GREAT A CRISIS AS IT DID IN 1776! IT MAY SOON BE BATTLING FOR ITS VERY LIFE AND INDEPENDENCE AGAINST A RUTHLESS FOE---AND YOUR DISCOVERY IS VITAL TO YOUR GOVERNMENT IF LIBERTY IS TO BE PRESERVED!


I---I'M CONVINCED NOW THAT I SHOULD TURN MY FORMULA OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT---HOW COULD I GO AGAINST THE SPIRITS OF LINCOLN AND WASHINGTON? IF ONLY I COULD BE SURE THAT THIS ISN'T ALL SOME SUPERNATURAL TRICK PLAYED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT---AND THAT GHOST MUST BE EVIL, OR IT WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED THOSE F.B.I. MEN! WAIT---IT'S BECKONING TO ME AGAIN---BUT WHERE TO NOW?

SOON AFTERWARDS...
STRANGE···THE GHOST LED ME BACK TO THE CEMETERY ROAD···AND THEN IT DIS-APPEARED!··SAY I WONDER WHY THE POLICE HAVE THE ROAD BLOCKED OFF LIKE THAT?


THIS ROAD'S TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC! A COUPLE OF FOREIGN SPIES WITH PHONEY F.B.I. CARDS ON 'EM WERE MYSTERIOUSLY KILLED HERE, AND THE F.B.I. IS SCOURING THE AREA FOR CLUES TO THEIR DEATHS!
IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! THOSE SPIES MUST HAVE GOTTEN WIND OF MY DISCOVERY AND WERE FOLLOWING ME TO SEIZE IT! AND THAT MEANS··THE GHOST ISN'T EVIL!

AND NOW THAT I KNOW HIS MOTIVES WERE GOOD, I WON'T HESITATE ANY LONGER IN TURNING MY DISCOVERY OVER TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ···JUST AS SOON AS I CAN FIND JANE! WAIT THERE'S THE GHOST AGAIN, BECKONING ME INTO THE CEMETERY!

JANE!
OH DARLING, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEVER COME!

EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW, HONEY! I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT···THAT GHOST AND A FEW OTHER SPIRITS CONVINCED ME I'D BE DOING THE RIGHT THING BY TURNING OVER THE FORMULA TO THE GOVERNMENT! BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW JUST WHO THE GHOST IS!
WELL, NOW THAT HIS MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED HE'S PROBABLY GOING BACK TO HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE ·SO PERHAPS WE CAN LEARN HIS IDENTITY BY FOLLOWING HIM!

LOOK···HE···HE'S DISAPPEARING INTO THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER!
YES, THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER MUST HAVE SENSED HE WAS NEEDED! HE WAS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE DEAD WHO DIDN'T WANT TO DIE IN VAIN BUT WHO MIGHT HAVE UNLESS YOU ADDED YOUR NEW WEAPON TO THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY!
THE END!

IF YOU LIKE STORIES ABOUT **PIRATES**, YOU'LL LIKE THIS ONE. IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT PIRATES, BUT THE **GHOSTS** OF PIRATES AS WELL. AND YOU CAN JUST BET THAT THE DEAD MAN'S CHEST IS FILLED WITH GOLD AND JEWELS, BECAUSE IT'S···

The TREASURE of BAD LUCK POINT!

STORY:- ACE AQUILA
ART:- JAY TACEY

HERE'S **BAD LUCK POINT**, IN THE FLORIDA KEYS. IT'S AN ISOLATED AREA··· A **STRANGE** AREA···

WANT TO KNOW **WHY** IT BEARS THAT ODD NAME? BECAUSE SHIPS VENTURING TOO NEAR SEEM TO RUN INTO THE WORST POSSIBLE LUCK. LIKE TERRIBLE STORMS ARISING···

LIKE SHIPWRECKS···

CRASH!

TRAGEDIES ARE COMMON IN THIS PERILOUS AREA·

NO WATER IN HIS LUNGS·· HE DIDN'T DIE BY DROWNING.

NOTICE THAT LOOK OF TERRIBLE FRIGHT ON HIS FACE ? AS IF HE SAW SOMETHING OUT OF THIS WORLD!

THE NATIVES WARNED OF DANGER···

YOU FELLAS BETTER KEEP FAR AWAY FROM BAD LUCK POINT IF YOU WANT TO STAY HEALTHY.

HAW-HAW-HAW! LISTEN TO THIS CHARACTER ··· HE'S TRYING TO SCARE US!

BOATS FOR HIRE

BUT THIS WAS THE EFFECT OF DISREGARDING THE WARNING···

W-WHAT'S SHAKING THE BOAT··· AND THAT AWFUL SOUND!

H-HA-EEEEEEEEEE!

H-HELP!

WHOOSH!

RUMORS, YOU SAY ? THEN HEAR THE REAL STORY OF BAD LUCK POINT. IT GOES BACK TO LONDON, IN THE YEAR 1563··· WHERE YOUNG JEREMY JARVIS WAS REARED IN POVERTY···

I'M SO HUNGRY, MOTHER···

I'M SORRY, JEREMY. THERE'S··· NO FOOD·

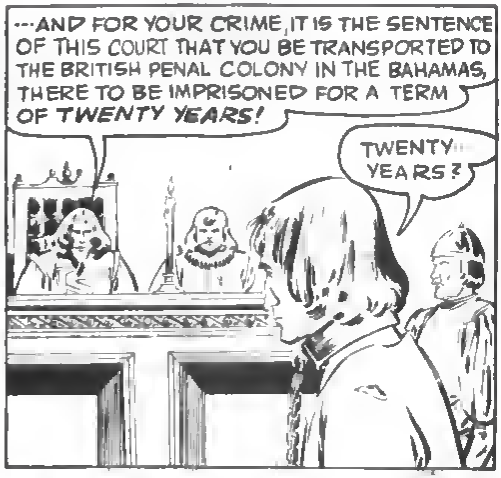
THAT'S WHY THE BOY WAS FORCED TO TURN TO BEGGING···

PLEASE, SIR ··JUST SIXPENCE TO KEEP ME ALIVE!

BE OFF, YOU YOUNG RASCAL!

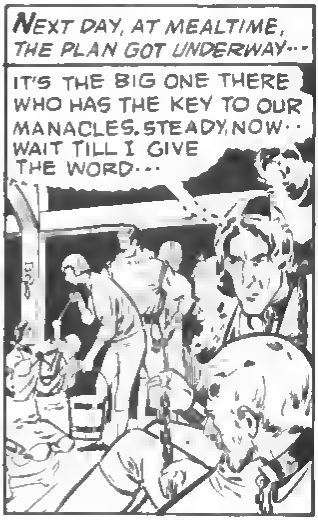
INN

BEGGING···AND THEN STEALING! BUT HE WAS NO EXPERT THIEF···THAT'S WHY HE WAS CAUGHT···
LET ME ··· GO!
A PICKPOCKET, EH? ··HO, GUARD! THIS WAY!


···AND FOR YOUR CRIME, IT IS THE SENTENCE OF THIS COURT THAT YOU BE TRANSPORTED TO THE BRITISH PENAL COLONY IN THE BAHAMAS, THERE TO BE IMPRISONED FOR A TERM OF TWENTY YEARS!
TWENTY··· YEARS?

ABOARD A PRISON SHIP...
THE BAHAMAS··I'VE HEARD HOW IT IS DOWN THERE. YOU STARVE ··AND THEY WORK YOU TO DEATH IN THE SUN. NONE OF US WILL EVER KNOW FREEDOM AGAIN!
ARE WE TO GO THERE LIKE SHEEP··· TO OUR DEATHS?

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO, SINCE YOU'RE SO CLEVER?
ESCAPE! I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT UP A PLAN···


NEXT DAY, AT MEALTIME, THE PLAN GOT UNDERWAY···
IT'S THE BIG ONE THERE WHO HAS THE KEY TO OUR MANACLES. STEADY NOW·· WAIT TILL I GIVE THE WORD···

NOW!
MMMFFF···

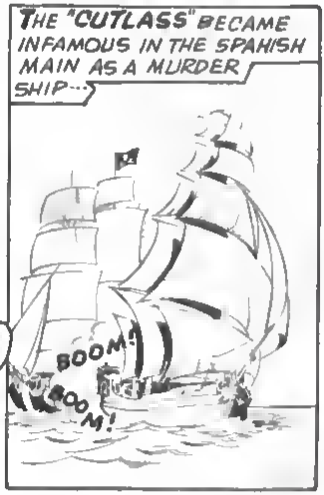
SH-HHH! WHEN YOU REACH THE DECK, PICK YOUR MAN, AND REMEMBER · WE'VE GOT TO SURPRISE THEM!

TAKE THEM!

VICTORY WAS WON ··· AND THEY DIDN'T LEAVE A MAN ALIVE TO BEAR WITNESS AGAINST THEM ···
IT ISN'T ENOUGH TO LAND AT THE NEAREST PORT AND TAKE UP OUR MISERABLE LIVES AGAIN ··· LIFE OWES US MORE THAN THAT! WE'VE HAD OUR SHARE OF STARVATION AND SUFFERING ··· LET'S GO FOR RICHES!
HOW?

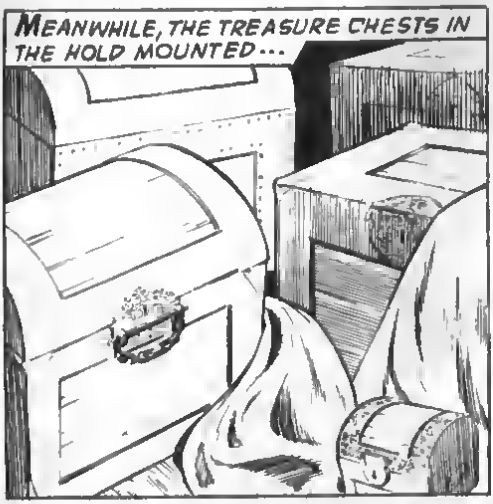
WE HAVE A SHIP, WELL-STOCKED AND WELL-ARMED, LET'S BECOME GENTLEMEN ROVERS ··· PIRATES! ··· AND HAVE ENOUGH GOLD TO LAST US FOR ALWAYS!
THAT'S FOR US ··· AND JEREMY JARVIS WILL BE CAPTAIN!

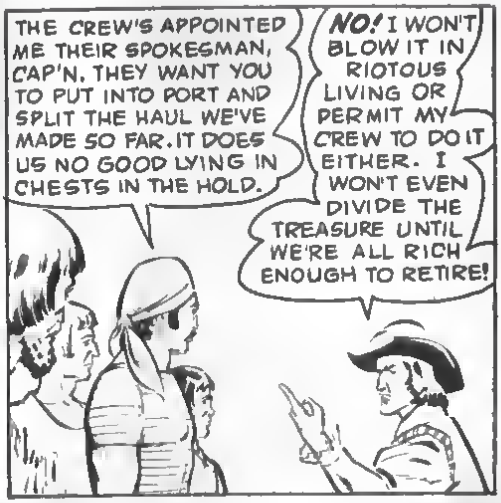
WE'LL CALL OUR SHIP THE CUTLASS!
HURRAH!


THE "CUTLASS" BECAME INFAMOUS IN THE SPANISH MAIN AS A MURDER SHIP ···
BOOM!
BOOM!

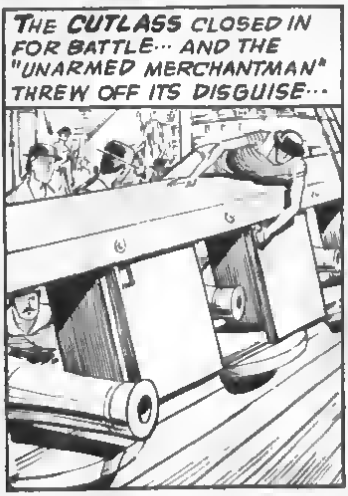
BOARD 'EM, ME HEARTIES!

DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES ··· NOR CAN THEY EVER APPEAR TO TESTIFY IN COURTS AGAINST THEIR ASSASSINS ···


MEANWHILE, THE TREASURE CHESTS IN THE HOLD MOUNTED...

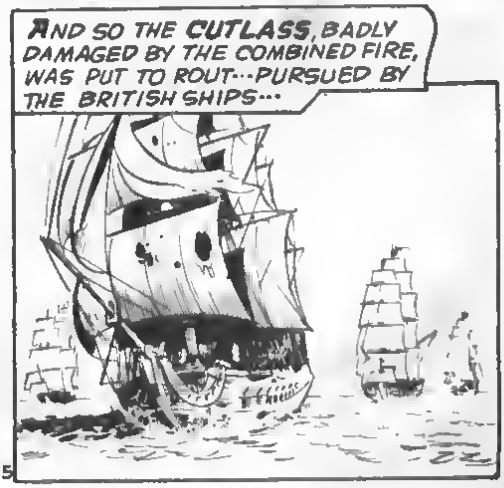

THE CREW'S APPOINTED ME THEIR SPOKESMAN, CAP'N. THEY WANT YOU TO PUT INTO PORT AND SPLIT THE HAUL WE'VE MADE SO FAR. IT DOES US NO GOOD LYING IN CHESTS IN THE HOLD.
NO! I WON'T BLOW IT IN RIOTOUS LIVING OR PERMIT MY CREW TO DO IT EITHER. I WON'T EVEN DIVIDE THE TREASURE UNTIL WE'RE ALL RICH ENOUGH TO RETIRE!

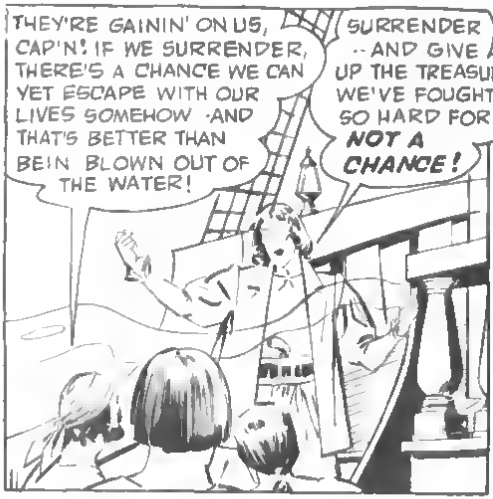
THE GOAL OF WEALTH FOR ALL HAD ALMOST BEEN REACHED WHEN...
SAIL HO! UNARMED MERCHANTMAN OFF PORT BOW!


THE CUTLASS CLOSED IN FOR BATTLE... AND THE "UNARMED MERCHANTMAN" THREW OFF ITS DISGUISE...

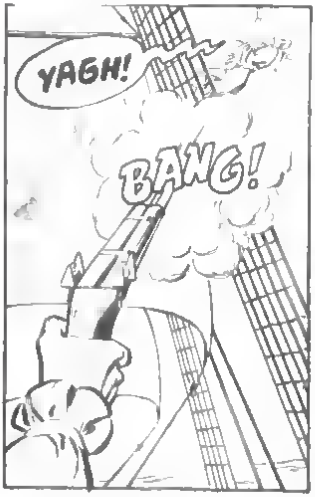
SHE'S RUN UP A BRITISH NAVAL ENSIGN... SHE'S A ROYAL FRIGATE! FIGHT, YE SWABS... WE CAN STILL BEAT HER!
CR-RASH!!

PERHAPS THE PIRATES MIGHT HAVE BEATEN HER IF SHE WERE ALONE... BUT NEXT MOMENT, JOINING THE FIGHT...
TWO MORE BRITISH WARSHIPS! WE'VE GOT TO RUN FOR IT!


AND SO THE CUTLASS, BADLY DAMAGED BY THE COMBINED FIRE, WAS PUT TO ROUT... PURSUED BY THE BRITISH SHIPS...


THEY'RE GAININ' ON US, CAP'N! IF WE SURRENDER, THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN YET ESCAPE WITH OUR LIVES SOMEHOW ·AND THAT'S BETTER THAN BEIN BLOWN OUT OF THE WATER!
SURRENDER ··AND GIVE UP THE TREASURE WE'VE FOUGHT SO HARD FOR? NOT A CHANCE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY. LOOK·· WE'VE ALREADY SENT A WHITE FLAG UP!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!


YAGH!
BANG!

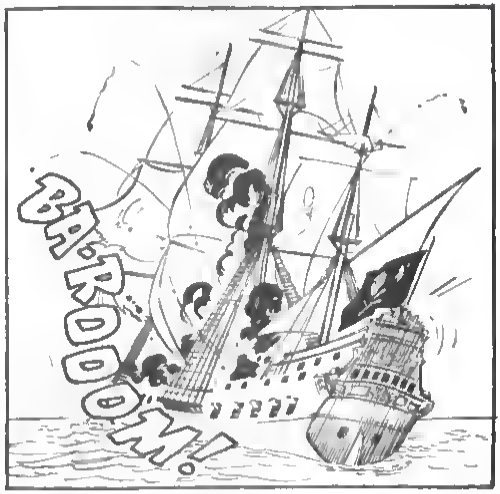
IF YOU WANT TO SURRENDER, GO AHEAD··· BUT GET OFF THIS SHIP FIRST···OR I'LL BLOW YOU FROM THE DECK!

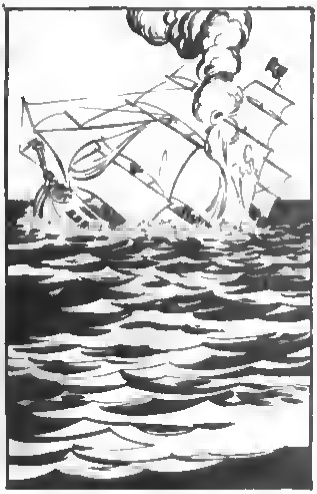
THERE COMES THE PIRATE CREW, ROWING FOR US, FLYING THE WHITE FLAG.
WE'D HAVE TO BE INSANE TO TRUST THOSE MURDEROUS RATS! OPEN FIRE!

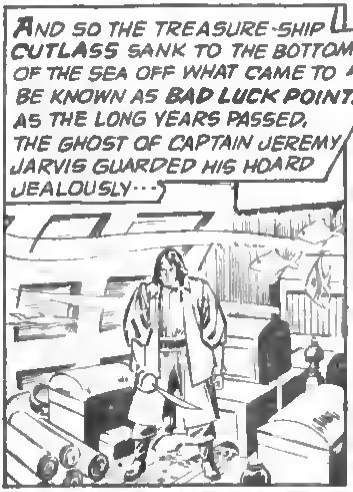
NOW SEND OUR MEN TO BOARD THAT PIRATE CRAFT. IT'LL BE EASY··· SHE'S UNMANNED.
BOOM!
BOOM!

THERE THEY COME. ALL OF MY TREASURE, THEIRS··· AND I'LL BE CAPTURED AND HANGED, TOO. SO···

...WE'LL SEE HOW THIS FIREBRAND FARES IN THE POWDER HOLD!

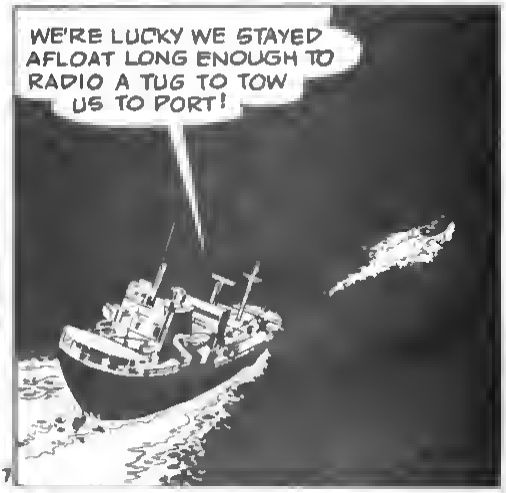

BA-ROOOM!



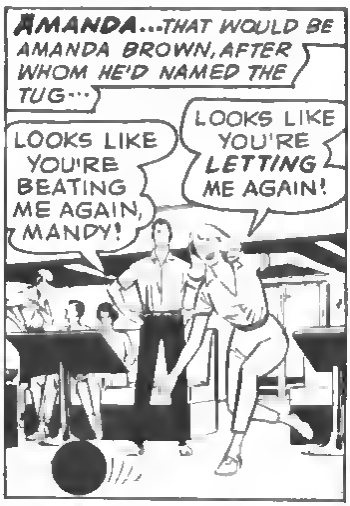

AND SO THE TREASURE-SHIP CUTLASS SANK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA OFF WHAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS BAD LUCK POINT. AS THE LONG YEARS PASSED, THE GHOST OF CAPTAIN JEREMY JARVIS GUARDED HIS HOARD JEALOUSLY...

WHEN HE FELT THE GOLD MENACED BY HUMANS PASSING OVER IT...
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE BOAT! ...IT'S GOING OVER!

OR ELSE...
BLOW, WINDS...BLOW! THAT'LL TEACH 'EM TO KEEP AWAY FROM WHERE THE CUTLASS LIES BURIED!


WE'RE LUCKY WE STAYED AFLOAT LONG ENOUGH TO RADIO A TUG TO TOW US TO PORT!

ABOARD THE TUGBOAT AMANDA B., CAPTAIN NED INGALLS CROWDED ON ALL POSSIBLE SPEED...
GOT TO HURRY ... WOULDN'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR MY DATE WITH AMANDA!


AMANDA...THAT WOULD BE AMANDA BROWN, AFTER WHOM HE'D NAMED THE TUG...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE BEATING ME AGAIN, MANDY!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE LETTING ME AGAIN!

IT'S TIME WE DID SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY WE FEEL FOR EACH OTHER. I'M GOING IN AND TELL YOUR FOLKS WE WANT TO GET MARRIED!
IT SOUNDS SO WONDERFUL ...B-BUT I'M AFRAID...

WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST YOU PERSONALLY, NED... BUT AFTER ALL, WHAT ARE YOU? A TUGBOAT CAPTAIN...
WELL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT, MR. BROWN? AFTER ALL, YOUR DAUGHTER AND I ARE IN LOVE.

BE PRACTICAL, PLEASE. LOOK AROUND YOU... THIS IS WHAT AMANDA IS ACCUSTOMED TO. CAN YOU GIVE IT TO HER? I'M AFRAID MY ANSWER WILL HAVE TO BE NO!
I'LL COME BACK AGAIN WHEN I'VE GOT ENOUGH AND SEE IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ANSWER THEN!

OKAY, IT'S FINE TO TALK... BUT HOW DO YOU PRODUCE? HOW DO YOU MAKE MONEY OWNING JUST ONE LITTLE TUG? YOU DON'T... NOT IF YOU HAVE TO RELY ON HAULING BARGES AND GOING OUT ON OCCASIONAL SALVAGE JOBS.

HE WAS STILL MULLING OVER THE PROBLEM NEXT DAY···

I'M SO TIRED THINKING ABOUT IT THAT I'LL DROP IN HERE AND RELAX···

NOW SHOW "When PIRATES PLOWED THE WAVES"

IT WAS A DOCUMENTARY ON THE PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN AND THE FLORIDA KEYS ···AND ONE OF THE PIRATES IT DEALT WITH WAS **CAPTAIN JEREMY JARVIS**···

GUESS HE PREFERRED DEATH TO GIVING UP HIS TREASURE···AND IT'S DOWN BELOW THE WATERS SOMEWHERE IN THESE VERY PARTS···

TREASURE···WELL, GOSHDARN IT, I'VE GOT A GOOD SALVAGE TUG, AND WHAT'S BETTER FOR SEARCHING OUT AN OLD WRECK? IT'S MY FIRST LEAD TO MONEY, AND A GOOD ONE···***CAPTAIN JARVIS'S GOLD!***

BUT IN ORDER TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE **CUTLASS** HAD GONE DOWN, HE'D HAVE TO DO SOME RESEARCH IN ENGLAND ···AND HOW COULD HE AFFORD IT? THE ONLY WEALTHY MAN HE KNEW WAS AMANDA'S FATHER···AND NED HAD PLENTY OF NERVE···

I ADMIRE YOUR GALL AND I'M GOING TO ADVANCE YOU THE MONEY···TO BE COVERED BY A MORTGAGE ON YOUR TUGBOAT. THAT WAY, I CAN TAKE IT OVER WHEN YOU FLOP AT YOUR VENTURE···AND YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP YOUR IDEA OF MARRYING MY DAUGHTER!

ENGLAND···

IF I'M GOING TO GET INFORMATION ANYWHERE, IT'LL HAVE TO BE HERE.

BRITISH NAVAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

RESEARCH REVEALED···

In 1574, off the Keys of Florida, Her Majesty's frigates Falcon, Sea Witch and Porpoise surprised the pirate craft Cutlass and pursued it. But when they closed in for the kill, its captain, the notorious Jeremy Jarvis, destroyed and sank the ship with his own hand and it foundered, carrying him to his death. [illegible] the frigate [illegible] returned [illegible] at the [illegible] sailing [illegible] all who [illegible] around [illegible] plenty of [illegible]

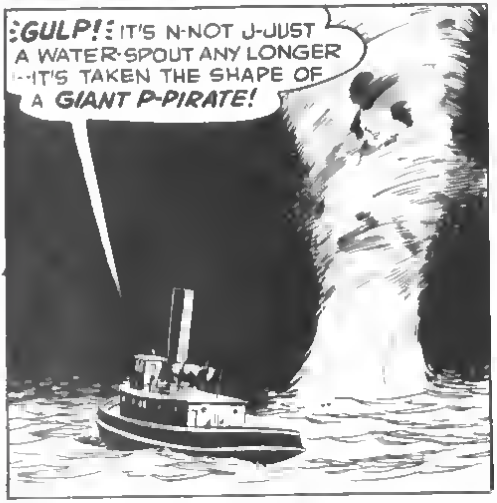
I KNOW THE HISTORY, HANG IT ···BUT THE QUESTION IS ***WHERE, WHERE!***

I SEE YOUR DILEMMA. IT SO HAPPENS THAT WE HAVE THE LOG-BOOK OF THE ***FALCON*** IN OUR PRIVATE ARCHIVES. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT IT.

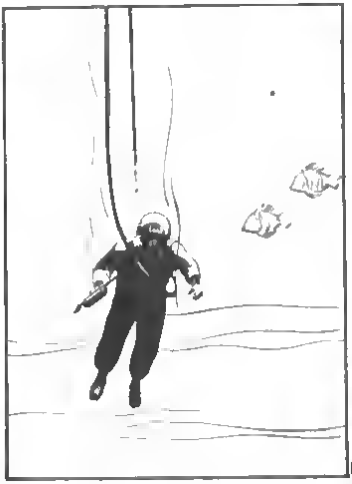
"We destroyed ye pirate crew in small boats, lest they attack us, then sent our own ship's boats to take over ye pirate craft CUTLASS. But its captain, who had remained aboard, scuttled it and it sank at a point…"
YE GODS, THEY GIVE THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE SINKING! EUREKA!
AND SO NED EMBARKED ON HIS GREAT TREASURE-HUNTING EXPLOIT…
I HAD JUST ENOUGH OF THAT LOAN FROM MR. BROWN LEFT OVER TO BUY DIVING GEAR. I CAN PAY MY MEN AND RUN THE TUG ONLY FOR TWO WEEKS MORE, SO IT HAD BETTER PAN OUT!
YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE HEADIN' INTO, CAP? THE SEA OFF BAD LUCK POINT … WE DON'T LIKE IT!
YEAH… YOU'VE HEARD OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN AROUND HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOPES… SUPERSTITIOUS? FORGET IT!
EVEN AS HE SPOKE, IT ROARED DOWN ON THEM… A TERRIBLE STORM FROM OUT OF NOWHERE…
WE WARNED YOU …AND IT'S HAPPENIN'!
SHUT UP… AND HANG ON!
THEN… UNBELIEVABLY…
H-HELP!
WHO EVER HEARD OF A SHIP FLYIN' UP IN THE AIR? LET'S GET OUTA HERE, CAP!
WE'LL GET OUT WHEN WE'VE EITHER SUCCEEDED OR FAILED, AND NOT BEFORE!
THE MOON BROKE OUT OF THE CLOUDS…
…AND THEN…

L-LOOK! ACROSS THE MOON -- A G-GHOSTLY HAND HOLDIN' A CUTLASS!
ARE YOU GUYS AFRAID OF CLOUDS? BROTHER, I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!
AMANDA B.

WHEN THE TUG REACHED THE PLOTTED POSITION...
LIVELY WITH THAT DIVING-GEAR.
HEY, GET A LOAD OF THAT. IT'S A WATER-SPOUT...


GULP! IT'S N-NOT J-JUST A WATER-SPOUT ANY LONGER --IT'S TAKEN THE SHAPE OF A GIANT P-PIRATE!

AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD APPEARED, IT VANISHED...
STOP BEING AN OLD WOMAN, WILL YOU? SO THE WATER JUST TOOK ON AN ACCIDENTAL SHAPE...SO WHAT? I'M GOING BELOW FOR A LOOK-SEE.



NOTHING! CAN I HAVE PICKED THE WRONG SPOT?

THERE SHE IS! ZOWIE!

HOLY SMOKE, A SHARK!

HE HAD DROPPED HIS SPEAR GUN AND HAD ONLY HIS BELT-KNIFE. IT DID THE JOB, THANK HEAVENS···
GOT HIM!

BUT THE OLD WRECK WAS WELL GUARDED. HE DREW CLOSER··· AND AN AWFUL MENACE REARED···
IT'S A DEADLY MORAY EEL!

MY LUCK'S STILL HOLDING!

THE TREASURE! I'VE FOUND IT!

I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING I WANT IN LIFE! MANDY... WEALTH... ALL MINE!

HE SENSED A MOVEMENT ...BUT IT WAS TOO LATE...
OH, NO... N-NO...

HA-HA! THAT'S HOW I DEAL WITH WHOEVER MENACES MY TREASURE!

HE MOVED...STILL ALIVE. WELL... I'LL ATTEND TO THAT!

NOT SO FAST, CAP'N...YOU'VE GOT VISITORS! TURN AROUND AND FACE US!

YOU... MY OLD CREW, DEAD THESE PAST FOUR CENTURIES!
AND COME OUT OF THE UNKNOWN TO COLLECT A LONG-DUE SCORE! REMEMBER... THIS TREASURE IS OURS, TOO!

BUT CAPTAIN JARVIS WASN'T YIELDING A COIN OF THAT HOARD WITHOUT A FIGHT. IT WAS A WEIRD BATTLE··· A BATTLE OF LONG-DEAD GHOSTS···
BACK···BACK, YE SWABS!

OH-HHHH··

THEN···
THEY'VE DISAPPEARED, ALL OF THEM!
POUF!

NOW THERE WAS NO LONGER THE GHOST OF THE PIRATE CAPTAIN TO DEFEND THE TREASURE···
UP SHE GOES!

WELL, I'LL BE DURNED! HE FOUND IT AFTER ALL!

IT WAS A BIG WEDDING ··WITH A BIG HONEYMOON IN PROSPECT···
'BYE!
GOOD LUCK!
THIS IS WHAT I CALL A REAL HONEYMOON!

The END!

The PHANTOM FIEND

TELL ME, DO YOU STILL INSIST YOU'RE SENATOR PHINLEY-- WHEN THIS IS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE?

IT'S WHAT I LOOKED LIKE-- UNTIL A DEMON POSSESSED MY BODY AND FORCED ME INTO THE ONE I NOW INHABIT! PLEASE, DOCTOR, YOU... YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO MY STORY-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

DAILY GLOBE

SENATOR JOSIAH PHINLEY SEEKS PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION!

HMM, ALLOWING HIM TO SPEAK FREELY MAY HELP ME TO GET TO THE ROOT OF HIS PSYCHOSIS!

THANK HEAVENS SOMEONE WILL! IT... IT ALL STARTED A FEW HOURS AGO, IN MY NEW CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS..

GO AHEAD. I'LL LISTEN!

"MY SECRETARY TOLD ME THERE WAS AN ODD-LOOKING OLD MAN WAITING OUTSIDE WHO SAID HE HAD TO SEE ME PRIVATELY-- THAT HE WAS ONE OF MY CONSTITUENTS.."

SEND THE GENTLEMAN IN-- CAN'T LET THE FOLKS AT HOME THINK I'M UNAPPROACHABLE, YOU KNOW!

"A MOMENT LATER.."

YOUR NEWSPAPER PICTURES DID NOT LIE, SENATOR-- YOU'RE VIGOROUS AND IN THE PRIME OF LIFE-- YOU SHOULD HAVE MANY MORE YEARS AHEAD OF YOU!

THANK YOU, SIR-- AND NOW, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

THAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!

YE GODS-- IT-- IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

"IN AN INSTANT THE AWFUL THING WAS UPON ME-- ITS TENTACLES SENDING A STAB OF AGONY THROUGH MY SPINE-- PARALIZING ME INTO HELPLESS IMMOBILITY!"

HELP-- MMF!

HA--YOU ARE POWERLESS! AND NOW YOU WILL HAVE NO MORE USE FOR YOUR BODY-- BECAUSE I AM TAKING IT OVER!

"IT WAS A WEIRD, UNEARTHLY, HORRIFYING SENSATION! I FELT MY DISPOSSESSED SPIRIT HOVER LIKE A GHOST IN MID-AIR-- AND THEN IT WAS DRAWN IRRESISTIBLY INTO THE BODY OF AN UTTER STRANGER! IT WAS GHASTLY!"

"AFTER A DIZZYING MOMENT - FRAUGHT WITH HORROR "

IT... **IT'S INCREDIBLE!** MY MIND AND PERSONALITY ARE STILL THOSE OF JOSIAH PHINLEY -- BUT MY BODY IS SOMEONE ELSE'S! YOU FIEND -- YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

GO AHEAD -- TELL THE WORLD! THE MORE YOU TELL, THE LESS YOU'LL BE BELIEVED! I'LL BUZZ FOR YOUR SECRETARY -- SEE FOR YOURSELF!

MISS ROGERS, **I'M** THE REAL SENATOR PHINLEY THAT MAN BEHIND MY DESK IS A FIEND, IN POSSESSION OF MY BODY! YOU'VE **GOT** TO BELIEVE ME CALL THE POLICE!

WHY YOU'RE **MAD!**

HUMOR HIM, MISS ROGERS. BUT CALL THE POLICE AND AN AMBULANCE!

BACK AT THE PSYCHOTIC WARD

AND THE DEMON WAS **RIGHT** -- THE MORE I TOLD THE POLICE, THE CRAZIER THEY THOUGHT I WAS! BUT **YOU** BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU, DOCTOR? YOU YOU'VE **GOT** TO!

NOW, NOW, CALM YOURSELF. I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO SETTLE YOUR NERVES!

THE POOR CHAP CERTAINLY TELLS AN IMPOSSIBLE STORY CONVINCINGLY! I'M GOING TO INJECT SOME OF THIS TRUTH SERUM -- **SODIUM PENTATHOL** -- INTO HIM! THIS SHOULD HELP ME FIND OUT WHO HE **REALLY** IS!

MINUTES LATER, IN RESPONSE TO DOCTOR PATTON'S QUESTIONING ..

I AM **SENATOR JOSIAH PHINLEY...** IN ANOTHER'S BODY..

GREAT SCOTT -- HIS STORY WAS TRUE!

THAT MEANS THE ENTIRE WORLD IS IN MORTAL DANGER! THAT FIEND WILL STOP AT **NOTHING!**

IT'LL BE HOURS BEFORE HE SLEEPS OFF THE EFFECTS OF THAT DRUG, AND MEANWHILE HE WON'T BE ABLE TO ANSWER ANY MORE QUESTIONS -- WHICH MEANS WE COULDN'T **PROVE** THE STORY IF **WE** TOLD IT TO THE POLICE!

YOU'RE RIGHT -- THEY'D THINK **WE** WERE CRAZY -- SO WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO STOP THE FIEND **OURSELVES!** WE CAN'T KILL THE SENATOR'S BODY, BECAUSE THE FIEND WOULD ONLY ESCAPE TO INHABIT SOME OTHER PERSON! WAIT -- I'VE GOT AN **IDEA!**

THIS MAGICIAN'S PROP RING! IT'S USUALLY USED TO SQUIRT DYE -- BUT AFTER I FILL THE SAC WITH A STRONG DRUG -- AND ATTACH A SMALL HYPERDERMIC NEEDLE, ANYONE WHO SHAKE'S MY HAND WILL GET A TERRIFIC SURPRISE!

I SEE -- SOMEHOW YOU'LL SHAKE THE DEMON'S -- ER, THE SENATOR'S HAND, SO THE SENATOR'S BODY WILL BE DRUGGED, AND THEREFORE USELESS!
EXACTLY -- AND THEN PERHAPS WE CAN DRIVE THE FIEND OUT OF THE BODY AND CAPTURE IT! THE FIEND IS SURE TO GO THROUGH WITH THE SPEECH THAT PHINLEY HAD PLANNED FOR TONIGHT -- AND WHEN HE FINISHES, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO BE THERE TO CONGRATULATE HIM!

SOON AFTERWARDS...
PHINLEY CERTAINLY SOUNDED LIKE A POWER-MAD WARMONGER TONIGHT! BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING HYPNOTICALLY COMPELLING ABOUT HIM!
YEAH, I... I HATE WAR - BUT AFTER HEARING HIM -- I FEEL I'VE GOT TO VOTE FOR HIM!
CIVIC AUDITORIUM

HE MUST HAVE EXERTED SOME HYPNOTIC SPELL OVER THE AUDIENCE -- LOOK HOW EVERYONE IS CROWDING AROUND TO SHAKE HIS HAND!
AND AS A POLITICIAN OUT FOR VOTES, HE'LL GLAD-HAND ANYONE -- INCLUDING ME!

CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR, THAT WAS A WORTHY SPEECH--
--WORTHY OF ONE OF THE DEVIL'S EMISSARIES
WHA-- OWW!

I I FEEL ILL, MY FRIENDS -- PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A WHILE!
I FIGURED HE'D DUCK OUT AS SOON AS HE KNEW I WAS AWARE OF HIS TRUE IDENTITY! COME ON, LET'S FOLLOW HIM!
I'M A DOCTOR -- LET US THROUGH, PLEASE!

MOMENTS LATER...
THAT FAST-WORKING DRUG OUGHT TO-- GREAT SCOTT!
THE DRUG WORKED FAST ON THE SENATOR'S BODY-- BUT NOT ON ME, YOU STUPID MEDDLER!
OHHH!

THEN MAYBE MY FISTS WILL PUT YOU TO SLEEP, CREEP!
HA-HA-HA!
POW!

FOOL-- DO YOU THINK YOUR PUNY STRENGTH COULD HARM A SUPERNATURAL BEING?
WHAM!

THERE'S TROUBLE INSIDE.. COME ON!
THIS WILL KEEP THE FOOLS OUT-- UNTIL I CAN ASSUME ANOTHER MASQUERADE! BUT I MUST ACT QUICKLY!
YOU--YOU MONSTER! YOU'VE KILLED HIM!
CLICK!

NO, HE'S ONLY UNCONSCIOUS--BUT THEREFORE USELESS TO ME! I MUST USE YOU! THERE--YOUR WILL IS PARALYZED! NOW FOR ANOTHER TRANSFORMATION!
I... I CAN'T MOVE!
THE DOOR'S LOCKED-- BREAK IT DOWN!

AS THE DEMON TAKES CONTROL OF SYLVIA-- HER SPIRIT TAKES SHELTER IN THE SENATOR'S BODY!
BAM! BAM!

SECONDS LATER...
WHEW-- MY HEAD!
WHAT'S WRONG HERE? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SENATOR?

THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! JUST BEFORE THE CROWD BROKE IN, THE FIEND RETURNED TO THE SENATOR'S BODY!
GOOD-- NOW LET'S GET HIM OUT OF HERE FAST!
THE SENATOR JUST SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD.
WHEW-- I WAS AFRAID THE FIEND WOULD EMERGE FROM PHINLEY'S BODY DURING THE AMBULANCE RIDE-- BUT THE DRUG MUST'VE FINALLY TAKEN EFFECT ON HIM, TOO! STAY ON WATCH WHILE I CHECK UP ON THE OLD MAN WHO CLAIMED HE WAS PHINLEY!
HA-HA-- HE DOESN'T KNOW THE GIRL IS POSSESSED!
ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
THE OLD MAN'S STILL SLEEPING OFF THE EFFECTS OF THAT PENTATHOL IN ROOM 7A-- I'VE LEFT WORD THAT HE'S TO BE RELEASED AS SOON AS HE AWAKENS, SINCE WE KNOW HE'S NOT MAD! MEANWHILE, I'M GOING TO THE LAB TO COOK UP A STRONGER DRUG FOR THE FIEND IN CASE HE EMERGES!
I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENS!

I'VE GOT TO FIND A BETTER MEDIUM FOR MY ACTIVITIES-- BUT IF THE GIRL LEFT THE HOSPITAL NOW, THE DOCTOR MIGHT SUSPECT I WAS INHABITING HER BODY!-- AH, I'VE GOT THE ANSWER!

THIS BODY WHICH THE SENATOR IS INHABITING NOW IS DUE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL AS SOON AS IT AWAKENS! SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ENTER IT, FORCE THE SENATOR'S SPIRIT BACK INTO HIS OWN UNCONSCIOUS BODY, AND THE GIRL'S SPIRIT FROM THERE BACK INTO HERS! WE'LL ALL BE BACK IN OUR ORIGINAL BODIES THEN-- AND I'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE HERE UNDETECTED-- TO SEEK SOME OTHER BODY TO WIN ME POWER!
7A
PSYCHOTIC WARD

ONCE AGAIN, THAT STRANGE TRANSFORMATION-- WITH SPIRITS NOW RETURNING TO THEIR PREVIOUS BODIES...

WHEN THE TRANSFORMATIONS ARE COMPLETE...

WHEN THE LAST GASPS AND WISPS OF SMOKE HAD VANISHED

YES, READER, WHO KNOWS? WHO KNOWS WHICH HUMANS ARE POSSESSED BY PHANTOM FIENDS -- AND WHO KNOWS WHO WILL BE THE NEXT VICTIM? PERHAPS YOU?

the END

BLACK PRAYER

BUT HER RECEPTION WASN'T PROMISING.
WHAT IS IT, YOU HAG?
I'M HUNGRY. GIVE ME SOME FOOD.

TOO LATE SHE REALIZED THAT SHE SHOULD HAVE CALLED.
IT'S OLD JENNIFER, SIR SHE'S BEGGING.
GIVE HER A BEATING AND LEAVE ME IN PEACE.

THERE WAS NO MERCY.
PITY... HAVE PITY... NO!

I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS... I'LL GET YOU!

SHE STUMBLED BACK TO HER MISERABLE HOVEL....
I'LL BE A WITCH YET!

HER TERRIBLE DESPAIR LED HER THOUGHTS TO A GROTESC IDEA.
I'LL ASK SATAN FOR HELP...
OH, SATAN, PRINCE OF DARKNESS HELP YOUR SERF.!
I'LL WALK THE TWISTED PATHS AND SHALL DRINK FLOM THE SOURCE OF ALL EVIL
WHAT IS IT YOU RECKLESS MORTAL?
THE PRAYER OPENED THE DOORS OF HAD'ES, AND SURROUNDED BY A POWERFUL FLAME LUCIFER HIMSELF APPEARED.
I WANT TO AVENGE CRUELTY COMMITTED UPON ME BY THE POWERFUL OF THE LAND.

LUCIFER ACCEPTED JENNIFER AMONG HIS HOSTS AND THUS THE NEWFANGLED WITCH BEGAN A NEW LEASE OF LIFE
DAYS LATER THERE WAS A BIG PARTY AT THE LORD'S MANOR.
WHO CAN I SAY MA AM?
DON'T BOTHER, I WALK ANYWHERE!
THE MEN FOUGHT FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO DANCE WITH THAT RADIANT BEAUTY.
THE NEWCOMER ATTRACTED THE ENVIOUS LOOKS OF EVERYONE

THE PARTY WAS HAPPY ENOUGH BUT. . .
YOU HOLD ME SPELL-BOUND WITH YOUR BEAUTY. STAY WITH ME ALONE.

THE WOMAN'S EYES HAD A MYSTERIOUS AND IRRESISTABLE FIRE AND HER WHOLE BODY BREATHED THE POWER OF SEDUCTION.

THEY KISSED PASSIONATELY
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I FELT LIKE THIS FOR ANY WOMAN

BUT THE PRICELESS BODY HID A WILTED AND VINDICTIVE SOUL.

HER DEVILISH PLAN WAS RUNNING TO PERFECTION.
COMING?
YES. I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO HELL ITSELF IF NEED BE.

SILENTLY THEY LEFT THE PARTY. FROM THAT MOMENT THEIR JOY WOULD BE INTIMATE

THE TABLE WAS LAID WITH DELICATE DISHES, AND THE BEST WINE WAS SELECTED FROM THE CELLARS
HOW LOVELY SHE IS, I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO MAKE HER MINE
JENNIFER'S KIND WORDS HID HER PERVERSE INTENTIONS.
AN EXQUISITE DINNER
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE, I'LL ORDER SOME LIQUEUR.

NOW IS THE TIME. THE END OF THE EVENING WILL BE A SHOCK TO HIS VERY LIFE.

WHEN NOT NOTICED, SHE QUICKLY POURS THE MORTAL POISON INTO THE GLASS.

AND SHE OFFERED IT HIM WITH A BURNING LOOK.

CONSUMED BY IMPATIENCE THE LORD SWALLOWED IT IN ONE GULP, NEVER REALIZING THAT HE DRANK DEATH ITSELF.

BURNING PAIN SHOT THROUGH HIS ENTRAILS
AAAGH!
HA, HA, HA !

AAAUGH! HELP... HELP ME..... QUICK!

BUT... WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS? WHO ARE YOU?
YOU KNOW ME VERY WELL... I'M JENNIFER... YOU HAD ME BEATEN AT YOUR DOOR, WHEN I WENT HUNGRY BECAUSE I WAS OLD AND WRETCHED.

YOU! NO! IMPOSSIBLE! AAAGH!
A RAUCOUS CRY FILLED THE ROOM.. AND HIS SOUL WENT TO HELL.

THE LIGHT OF THE NEW DAY STOLE INTO THE ROOM JENNIFER RETURNED TO HER PREVIOUS APPEARANCE...
END